

SUMIDA et al.
Appl. No. 09/856,657
August 16, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Amend the punctuation at the end of claims 91, 92, 99, and 133 (e.g., to provide a period).
2. Amend claim 94 to include therein the "diffusing means" subject matter of dependent claim 95.
3. Amend dependent claim 95 to delete the "diffusing means" subject matter now incorporated instead into independent claim 94.
4. Cancel claims 96, 115, 117, 120 and 141 without prejudice or disclaimer.
5. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections (see Section B infra).

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 94 has been amended to include a limitation from claim 95, i.e., the diffusing means. Contrary to the final rejection, Applicants deem claim 94 as now amended to be patentable over over Broer and Hatazawa in view of Takeshi.

Takeshi does not suggest that a diffusing plate be utilized in either Broer or Hatazawa. Takeshi's diffusing plate 30 differs from the Broer reflector 23 and the Hatazawa reflecting sheet 8a. Takeshi's diffusing plate 30 is provided on a light emitting plane of the light guide section 26. On the other hand, reflector 23 of Broer and reflecting sheet 8a of Hatazawa are provided respectively on the end surface 15 and the end surface 4c which are not a light emitting plane. In view, e.g., of the totally dissimilar orientations of the reflecting devices of Broer reflectors (not in a light emitting plane), the person skilled in the art would not look to Takeshi to obtain an entirely different structure (diffusing plate) in a non-

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analogous position (i.e., in the light emitting plane). Therefore, none of the cited references suggest the combination of Broer/Hatazawa with Takeshi.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.


The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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